



August 6, 2010

This Week:

- New Deputy Chief appointed
- Inaugural sailing of Chetzemoka postponed; new sea trials set
- Ferries Division generators
- First female Captain retires from WSF
- Stranded boaters rescued by Steilacoom II crew
- Advertising update
- Meeting with the Seattle Department of Transportation

New Deputy Chief appointed

I have named Capt. George Capacci as the new Deputy Chief of Operations and Construction with WSF. Capt. Capacci will oversee operations, terminal engineering, and vessel maintenance, preservation and engineering. He served 20 years in the U.S. Coast Guard and more recently was vice president of Fleet Operations for B.C. Ferries and general manager for the Alaska Marine Highway System. Since 2009, he has been the Washington State Ferries Division North Region port captain. He has a Masters of Public Administration from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Capt. Capacci is a respected veteran of the marine industry, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. His extensive background will assist me to ensure that our operations and engineering departments are functioning in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Inaugural sailing of *Chetzemoka* postponed; new sea trials set

The Aug. 29 inaugural sailing of the new Chetzemoka ferry is being postponed as additional sea trials are conducted this week regarding excessive vibration. A new date for the first sailing between Port Townsend and Keystone has not been set. I am looking forward to getting the boat in service and the celebration event just as much as the communities served on this route, but our first priority is to have a safe and fully operational vessel. Sea trials are took place this week to collect data on maneuvering characteristics and corresponding stopping distances. The goal is to determine if operational limitations will allow the vessel to be put into service sooner while longer-term work continues on the vibration issues. I'm confident we will isolate the problem soon and find a remedy as quickly as possible. A new date for the inaugural sailing will be set as soon as possible. For more information about the Chetzemoka, please visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/64CarFerries.

Ferries Division generators

Recent media coverage highlighted the purchase of vessel generators by WSF and cancellation of that contract when information became available that the generators should not be used on our vessels. We are optimistic that we can recover the costs through third-party purchase. I want to reassure you that I would never put our passengers or employees at risk; safety is the number one priority of WSF. Secretary Hammond demonstrated this when she withdrew the Steel Electrics from service in 2007 when there was an issue of concern. In the nearly 60 years that we have operated the ferry system, our safety record is equal to or exceeds any other ferry system in the world. Our 23 million annual passengers can count on our state ferries to deliver them safely to and from their destinations.

First female Captain retires from WSF

Lynda Wheeler joined WSF in 1973 as an entry-level porter. She worked her way up the ranks to become our first female deck officer on July 3, 1977. Captain Wheeler retired from WSF on July 30 after 37 years on the job. During her tenure she was a model of consistency and an inspiration to others, particularly females pursuing careers as deck officers. Today WSF employs 15 female deck officers. Thank you, Captain Wheeler, for your decades of service, and congratulations on your retirement.

Stranded boaters rescued by Steilacoom II crew

On Monday night, the crew of the Steilacoom II rescued three boaters whose boat was adrift near the Port Townsend terminal. The crew of the Steilacoom II launched one of its two rescue boats just before 10 p.m. and towed their 17-foot ski boat to safety at Point Hudson Marina. I applaud Captain Darrell Kimmerly and the entire crew of the Steilacoom II for their efforts. In addition to Captain Kimmerly, the crew included:

- Chief Mate Paul Anderson
- Able Seaman William Pritchard
- Able Seaman Linda Brownlee
- Ordinary Seaman William Forrester
- Ordinary Seaman Allan Stewart
- Chief Engineer Robert Rowe

Advertising update

Customers riding the Seattle/Bainbridge Island route will see a new Virginia Mason advertising campaign on the vessels beginning next Friday, August 16. This campaign will net \$23,000 in revenue for WSF.

Meeting with the Seattle Department of Transportation

On Thursday morning, I met with SDOT regarding the seawall replacement and the waterfront design. We discussed the importance of improved entering and exiting from Colman Dock and our desire to work closely with SDOT as plans develop.

Next Week:

- Update on Chetzemoka sea trials
- Update on vehicle reservations planning

David Moseley's weekly reports are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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